

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 /067 W

----- 099013

R 090330Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 571

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0515

ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PP

SUBJ: POLITICAL TENSIONS EASE

1. POLITICAL SCENE IS STABLIZING. COALITION GOVERNMENT RALLIED AFTER A BRUISING TWO WEEKS AND WON VOTES IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY LAST WEEK WITH FACILITY THAT IT LOST THEM TWO PREVIOUS WEEKS.

2. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY PASSED CONTROVERSIAL PROVISION MAKING QUEEN HEAD OF STATE AFTER VIGOROUS OPPOSITION FROM NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP AND COUNTRY PARTY AND A SPLIT UNITED PARTY VOTE.

3. ONE OF UNKNOWNNS IN NEXT SESSION IS TEI ABAL WHO IS SUBJECT TO PRESSURE FROM HIS CONSTITUENTS (ENGA TRIBESMEN, VERY PRIMITIVE GROUP) EVERY TIME HE GOES BACK TO HIS DISTRICT. HE NOW SEEMS WILLING TO MOVE DOWN THE ROAD TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE IN 1975, BUT THIS POSITION COULD BE REVERSED AGAIN.

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4. OUTLOOK FOR SETTING INDEPENDENCE DATE IS STILL

UNCERTAIN. MAIN OBSTACLES ARE CITIZENSHIP PROVISIONS
AND ORGANIC LAWS; BOTH OF WHICH CAN BE SETTLED BY
COMPROMISE BUT THAT COULD BE TIME CONSUMING.

5. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED JUNE 5. WILL
RETURN JUNE 17 AS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, CONDUCT ROUTINE
BUSINESS, THEN REMAKE ITSELF INTO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
ON JUNE 23 AND DEBATE CONSTITUTION FOR A WEEK. WILL
ADJOURN UNTIL JULY 7 WHEN IT WILL RETURN FOR PERHAPS
TWO WEEKS.
OLMSTED

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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